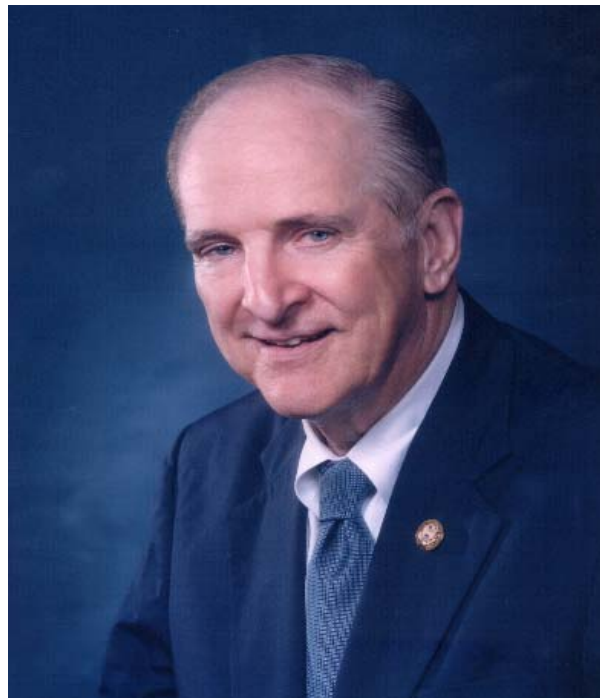




Program:

Congressional Youth Advisory Council



Congressman Sam Johnson



Congressional Youth Advisory Council

Congressman Sam Johnson

Enclosures:

- Rep. Johnson's news release announcing the creation of the Youth Council
- Letters to local principals asking for their help
- Letters to local students encouraging them to apply
- Rep. Johnson's application form
- Rep. Johnson's news release announcing the students who had been accepted on the Council
- Resulting news clips

Congressman Sam Johnson

News Release



1211 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

www.samjohnson.house.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

McCall Cameron

November 3, 2004

202/225-4201

Sam Johnson rolls out Congressional Youth Advisory Council *Students have until Dec 1 to apply*

Today U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson (3rd Dist-Texas) invited students to apply to the first ever Congressional Youth Advisory Council for the Third District of Texas. The CYAC is open to students enrolled in public, private and home schools. Students have until December 1st to apply.

“America’s the best country in the world – and one reason is because we celebrate democracy every day. I hope to share my love of America and passion for freedom with the Council members and learn from them how we in Congress can make a better America for future generations,” said Johnson.

“As legislators, we repeatedly encourage civic participation of our constituents,” said Johnson. “I want to extend that invitation to our young people. Recently, a national newspaper reported that barely one-third of Americans aged 18 – 24 voted in the 2000 election. It is my goal to try to change that,” continued Johnson.

The Committee’s goal is two-fold. First, the Council will provide Johnson with greater student perspective and insight on issues that directly affect them. Second, Council activities will focus on educating young people about government and policy. Students will learn about the development of public policy and explore the role of citizens, lawmakers, experts, and institutions and their impact on the world’s most successful democracy. Students will have the opportunity to witness the great challenges and great responsibilities that go hand in hand with public trust.

“Federal government is supposed to serve the people. This Council will spark discussions on government, civics, and issues important to the students. Not every young person has a chance to visit Washington, DC. The Council will bring a part of the Nation’s Capital to North Texas.”

Students must apply for the CYAC. The Council will be composed of high school sophomores, juniors and seniors selected based on leadership ability, academic performance, and public service. Once accepted, the members of the CYAC will meet approximately two to three times each school semester in the Third District.

“It is my hope that the Council will benefit our young people and those of us who hope to work in their best interests,” continued Johnson.

Those interested in applying can download a CYAC application form on Johnson’s website at www.samjohnson.house.gov anytime after November 4th.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 5, 2004

Dear Third Congressional District Principal,

As you well know, the Third District of Texas boasts some of the finest young people. I'd like to help them learn about the government first-hand with the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The first-ever of its kind for the Third District, this dynamic group of young people will meet two or three times a semester in the area.

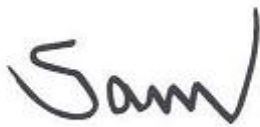
Would you please share this information with teachers and students alike? The CYAC will be open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Please encourage your students to apply to join a team of what promises to be a group of civic-minded, well-informed, passionate young people from North Texas.

If you want to learn more about Congress or the Third District or to download an application, please visit my website at www.samjohnson.house.gov. ***Students must return their application to my district office by December 1st.*** If you have any questions, you may contact Susan Fischer at 972-470-0892.

Thank you in advance for all you do to help make North Texas schools so prestigious.

God bless you and God bless America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sam Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2004

Dear Third Congressional District Student,

Have you ever wanted to become more involved in your community? Do you desire to learn about the government first-hand compared with just a text book? Does government, politics, policy, journalism or civics interest you?

If so, please consider applying for the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. The first-ever of its kind for the Third District, this dynamic group of young people will meet two or three times a semester in the area.

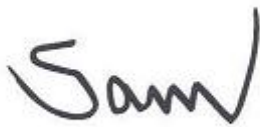
It would be a tremendous honor if you applied to be a part of this team of what promises to be a group of civic-minded, well-informed, passionate young people from North Texas.

If you want to learn more about Congress or the Third District, please visit my website at www.samjohnson.house.gov.

Please return the application on the reverse side of this letter to my office by December 1st to Susan Fischer.

God bless you and God bless America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sam". The letters are stylized and connected, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Sam Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Office of U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson

APPLICATION FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Please print or type all of the requested information. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Applicant's Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

Home Address:

Home phone number: _____

Cell phone: _____

Email: _____ Are you at least 16 years of age? _____

If over 18, are you a registered voter? _____ Current grade level _____

What school do you attend? _____

List all clubs and activities:

Would you be able to meet on Monday evenings from 6 – 7:30pm and / or Saturday mornings from 10:30am to noon – which would you prefer?

Briefly state what you would like to achieve by serving on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council.

What topics and/or speakers would most interest you?

Do you have any relatives who are federal, state or city employees, members of a city council, or serve on any board or commission? (If yes, please list.)

*** * Please attach at least one letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, principal, or parent with this application. * ***

Please submit the completed application to the Office of Congressman Sam Johnson by **December 1.**

In person or via mail: Office of U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson
 C/O Susan Fischer
 2929 North Central Expressway
 Suite 240
 Richardson, Texas 75080
Via Fax: (972) 470-9937

*Questions about this application? Please call (972)470-0892.

Congressman Sam Johnson

News Release



1211 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

www.samjohnson.house.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

McCall Cameron

February 18, 2005

202/225-4201

Congressional Youth Advisory Council Announced

Today U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson (3rd Dist.-Texas) announced the members of the first ever Third District Congressional Youth Advisory Council. Nearly forty students were invited to join the exclusive council; over 150 students applied. Of those selected, roughly half attend public school, half attend private school, and two participate in home school. Only sophomores, juniors and seniors may participate.

“There are some terrific students on the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I’m sure they will represent the Third District well,” said Johnson. “These students are the Cream of the Crop.”

“Nearly every single application had outstanding achievements – honor society, student government, proven leadership, public service, and outside interests. All who applied really demonstrated a sincere interest,” said Johnson. “I had no idea there would be such a response. I hope every single one of those applicants continues to keep in touch and follow current events. I bet there may even be a few future elected officials in that bunch. If they are still in high school, I hope they’ll reapply.

Members from the community volunteered to serve on the Advisory Panel that selected the CYAC members on behalf of the Congressman. The CYAC held its first meeting earlier this month and will convene again two more times this school year.

At the first meeting, students asked informative questions on a host of current events: Social Security reform, foreign policy with Iran, pending gun legislation, the successful election in Iraq and the Congressman’s opinion of the SMU football program.

The Committee’s goal is two-fold. First, the Council will provide Johnson with greater student perspective and insight on issues that directly affect them. Second, Council activities will serve to boost activism among high school students.

Students selected this year will have the option to continue on the Council next year. Students not selected this year are encouraged to apply again next fall.

2005 Congressional Youth Advisory Council

Sophomores

Merinda Anne Brooks	Plano	Jasper High School
Alyssa DeLorenz	Garland	Williams High School
Amanda Lipscomb	McKinney	Dallas Academy
Austin Lutz	Dallas	Trinity Christian Academy
Michael Burke Scott	Dallas	Plumtree Homeschool Academy
Aatman Shah	Plano	Vines High School

Juniors

Nathaniel Alcorn	Frisco	Centennial High School
Mindy Bell	McKinney	McKinney Christian Academy
Heather Blizzard	Plano	Centennial High School
Brandon Boyd	Allen	Allen High School
Christina Elizabeth Buss	Plano	Ursuline Academy of Dallas
Lauren Elyse Carlisle	Murphy	Plano East Senior High School
Albert Chang	Dallas	Plano West Senior High School
Andrew Clark	Plano	Plano West Senior High School
Joe Dickerson	Frisco	Frisco Centennial High School
Allison Goldman	Dallas	Plano West Senior High School
Douglas Hermann	Allen	Allen High School
Jordan Chandler Hirsch	Plano	Yavneh Academy of Dallas
Katie Laughlin	Plano	Plano Senior High School
Alison Lyon	Allen	Plano East Senior High School
Natalie Myers	Plano	Plano Senior High School
Jeff Nanney	Plano	Plano East Senior High School
Joe O'Neill	Plano	Plano Senior High School
Adam Rosenfield	Plano	Plano West Senior High School
Kristin M. Schneider	Richardson	Home School
Heather Webb	Plano	Plano West Senior High School
Katie Willman	Frisco	Centennial High School
Anna Zhang	Plano	Plano West Senior High School

Seniors

John Coleman	McKinney	McKinney High School
Jenny Davis	Richardson	Canyon Creek Christian Academy
Dana K. Hansen	Plano	Canyon Creek Christian Academy
Jordan Herskowitz	Plano	Plano West Senior High School
Alison Houpt	Rowlett	Naaman Forest High School
Ashley E. Mergen	Frisco	Frisco High School
Mathew Martinez	McKinney	McKinney High School
Parth Shah	Garland	Naaman Forest High School
Christina Shams	Sachse	Sachse High School
Brittany Whitstone	McKinney	McKinney North High School
Elliot Winters	Plano	Frisco High School

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Dallas Morning News

Editorial: Someone's Listening Teens should jump at the chance to work with a member of Congress

09:36 AM CST on Monday, November 15, 2004

Young people don't vote. They don't pay attention. They don't care. ... Sorry, folks, but it's time to throw that stereotype out the window. You must have old Generation X on your mind (and even those young adults are voting more now that they have cars, kids and cash).

By many accounts, those in their teens and 20s now are more civically engaged than their peers a decade ago. According to the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, although young voters still make up a relatively small percentage of all voters, their numbers are increasing: 52 percent turnout this year compared with 42 percent in 2000 and 35 percent in 1996.

And they are looking beyond the polls for opportunities to make a difference.

That's where U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Plano, comes in. This month, he and his staff are launching the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. They're looking for students with good grades, a record of civic involvement and something to say.

You know a bright kid like that, don't you? Tell him or her about this new opportunity. Not only is it a chance to have direct face time with a member of Congress a couple of times each semester, it's a chance to shape this program from the ground up.

Collin County and the 3rd Congressional District need a program like this to help our local Alex P. Keatons learn more about politics, government and public opinion. As one of Mr. Johnson's staff members put it, the young people in this district are "uber-students" when it comes to getting involved.

A couple of years ago, Mr. Johnson went directly to students to ask how to improve safety at their schools. More than 300 showed up at Southfork Ranch for the Safe Schools Summit.

Based on that feedback and turnout, Mr. Johnson knows the insight and fresh ideas young people can bring to the table, and we commend him for taking the time to invite them there.

In many other congressional districts, this kind of interaction with representatives is reserved for adult voters with checkbooks, so teenagers in Collin County should embrace this opportunity.

A seasoned veteran of Congress wants their help and wants to help them get involved. They should jump at this offer.

Be Heard

An application to join Sam Johnson's Congressional Youth Advisory Council can be found on his Web site, www.samjohnson.house.gov. The deadline to turn the application in at Mr. Johnson's Richardson office is Dec. 1. For more information, call 972-470-0892. Applications are open to all sophomores, juniors and seniors in the district, including students outside of public school systems.

Dallas Morning News

Giving Students a Voice: Sam Johnson's Youth Advisory Council connects students with major issues

12:13 AM CDT on Thursday, May 19, 2005

Why don't kids care enough to vote? Why don't they know enough about civics? Why don't they trust adults? Why do they tune out?

These are important questions, but the most important question may have found an answer in the 3rd Congressional District: How can we get young people involved?

That question led U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson and his staff to create the Congressional Youth Advisory Council. In a recent speech from the floor of the House of Representatives, he said, "I guessed that perhaps 10 to 20 students would participate. Nearly 150 young people from public, private and home schools applied."

Guess maybe those young people aren't as tuned out as some people think. Often what they really want is a sign from adults in power that they care enough to ask their opinion and to listen when they speak.

That's what Mr. Johnson and the CYAC did. A community panel helped select the 39 students who became the first members of the CYAC, pioneers, we hope, who will help make the program a fixture in North Texas.

Students got more face time with their elected representative than a lot of donors and adult supporters get. They quizzed Mr. Johnson on Social Security, Iraq and other issues important to all generations.

"I'm guessing that I learned more from the CYAC than they did, and I'm better for it," Mr. Johnson said.

For this initial class of participants, sophomores and juniors will automatically be invited back, and younger teenagers will join their ranks during the next school year. Already, plans are under way to improve the program by bringing in guest speakers who can educate the teens and gain a better understanding of their perspectives, too.

We hope those returning to the program will spread the word about the opportunity and look for ways to bring what they learn from the experience back to their campuses. The CYAC can be more than just personal enrichment; it can enrich the community if it sparks greater civic-mindedness at high schools.

But for the graduating seniors – Brittany Whitstone, Mathew Martinez and John Coleman from McKinney; Dana K. Hansen, Jordan Herskowitz and Elliot Winters from Plano; Ashley E. Mergen from Frisco; Jenny Davis from Richardson; and Christina Shams from Sachse – we hope you have been inspired. We hope that when you are community, state and national leaders, you will follow Mr. Johnson's example and listen to bright young people, too.